

Stone Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. D. T. BRUNYATE, D.M., D.P.H.,

FOR THE YEAR 1937.



Stone Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*To the Chairman and Members of
the Stone Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I beg to submit to you my first annual report as your Medical Officer of Health. It is for the year 1937.

I should like to take this opportunity to record my appreciation of the help I received from my predecessor, Dr. Sutcliffe, when I took up my duties ; also my gratitude to Dr. O'Donnell for his invaluable assistance during the periods when he has acted as your Medical Officer of Health, namely between Dr. Sutcliffe's departure and my arrival, and again during my annual leave.

To your Sanitary Inspector and his staff I must also express my thanks for help freely rendered in introducing me to the town.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. D. T. BRUNYATE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officials of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health :

W. D. T. BRUNYATE, D.M., D.P.H., who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Stone, and an Assistant County Medical Officer for Staffordshire. (Appointed 24-5-37).

Medical Superintendent of Stone Joint Isolation Hospital, Yarnfield, (part-time) :

J. R. O'DONNELL, M.B., CH.B., B.A.O., who also deputises for the Medical Officer of Health during his annual leave, etc.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector :

G. S. CHALLACOMBE, P.A.S.I., who is also Surveyor.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :

C. R. DRIVER, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.S.I., who is also Assistant Surveyor.

Bye-Laws.

The Council have adopted bye-laws as to :

1. New Streets and Buildings.
2. Slaughter Houses.

A. Vital Statistics.

These statistics give information about the births and deaths in the area, and include various "rates," which are compared, where possible, with the corresponding rates for England and Wales. A complete list of the causes of death will be found in Table 15 at the end of this report.

The maternal mortality rate for the year (24.09) has a very unfavourable appearance. It must be remembered however that this follows a rate of Nil for the past 2 years ; and also that the numbers concerned (2 maternal deaths and a total of 83 live and still births) are too small for the maternal mortality rate to possess any real significance.

For the same reason the infant mortality rate (76) must not be regarded too seriously, although it follows a slightly higher figure (78.9) last year.

Table 1. Births and Deaths.

				Total	Male	Female
Live Births	{	Legitimate		78	40	38
		Illegitimate		1	—	1
Still Births		...		4	3	1
Deaths of Infants under one year				6	3	3
Total Deaths				69	39	30

Table 2. Deaths from certain specified diseases.

Number of deaths (included in the above) from :—				
Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	11
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	0

Deaths from Puerperal causes :—

				Deaths in Stone U.D.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.	
					Stone U.D.	England & Wales
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	0	—	0.94
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	2	24.09	2.17
Total	...	...	...	2	24.09	3.11

Table 3. Birth and Death Rates.

	Stone Urban District.	England and Wales.
Birth Rate per 1000 population	13.0	15.5
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	48.2	38.7
*Crude Death Rate per 1000 population	10.8	} 12.4
*Corrected Death Rate per 1000 population	9.7	
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births	76	58
Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	77	not available
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate live births	0	not available

* Note—The corrected Death Rate is obtained by multiplying the crude Death Rate by the factor 0.9. This factor is supplied by the Registrar-General and serves to make the rate for the district comparable, from the point of view of mortality, with the Death Rate of the country as a whole, or with the Death Rate (similarly modified) of any other district.

General Statistics, etc.

Area (in acres) 1,605.

Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid 1937) 6,376.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books, 1,750.

Rateable Value, £33,271.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £131.

Your town is mainly residential in character, but the following industries flourish therein:—Boot and Shoe Factories, Breweries, a Safety Glass Works, a Pottery Factory, a Tile Factory, twelve farms.

Table 4. Unemployment Statistics.

				31-12-35	31-12-36	31-12-37
Men unemployed	...	...		130	103	129
Temporary stoppages	...	...		127	84	92
Women unemployed	...	...		13	16	18
Temporary stoppages	...	...		23	20	31
Boys and Girls unemployed	...	...		4	2	6
Temporary stoppages	...	...		2	—	6
TOTAL	...	...	...	309	225	282

B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—These are provided by the County Council at the County Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford.

MORTUARY:—The Staffordshire County Council Public Assistance Committee possess a mortuary and post-mortem room at Trent House, Stone. The U.D.C. have recently agreed to pay a retaining fee for the use of these when required.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE:—This is provided by the County Council and is held weekly at the Christ Church Parish Room. Your Medical Officer of Health is in charge of the centre (as part of his County Council duties). The attendances during the year have been very high:—

Table 5.

	1935	1936	1937
Number of Sessions	49	46	48
Total attendances from the Urban District	2088	1845	2147
Total attendances from the Rural District	426	489	505
Average attendance per Session ...	51.3	50.7	55.2
Number of children on the register at December 31st :—			
Under 1 year	65	53	49
Over 1 year	136	132	119

Hospitals.

The Stone Joint Isolation Hospital Board consists of representatives of Stone U.D.C. and Stone R.D.C., and is responsible for the provision of an Isolation Hospital at Yarnfield, and also a disused hospital in the same neighbourhood which is available for cases of smallpox.

At the Isolation Hospital the present accommodation is for 8 Diphtheria patients and 16 Scarlet Fever patients. During November the number of Diphtheria patients exceeded the number of available beds, and by the courtesy of the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Stafford, one patient from our district was sent to the Isolation Hospital at Stafford.

During the year the Board has terminated an old-standing agreement whereby cases of Tuberculosis were received in a special block at Yarnfield on behalf of the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Joint Board for Tuberculosis. This block is now empty and is being reconditioned to serve as an enlarged Diphtheria block for 16 patients. It is proposed in addition to provide a few observation cubicles. When this work has been carried out the facilities available for the treatment of infectious diseases occurring in your area will be very much improved.

A temporary agreement has been entered into with Uttoxeter U.D.C. and R.D.C. for the reception of their infectious disease patients at Yarnfield pending other arrangements coming into force under the County Council Scheme.

Agreements are also being entered into with one or two neighbouring authorities for inter-availability of accommodation in the event of our hospital, or theirs, being full.

Dr. O'Donnell reports :—

“ The following patients were received at the Yarnfield Isolation Hospital during the year :—

Table 6.

		From Stone U.D.C.	From Stone R.D.C.	From Uttoxeter.	From other Authorities
Scarlet Fever	...	6	18	30	2
Diphtheria	...	11	19	2	—
Measles	...	2	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	1	—

The only death which occurred in the hospital during the year (other than those of County Council Tuberculosis patients) was that of the patient admitted from Uttoxeter with Poliomyelitis.”

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council's Waterworks provide a pure and adequate supply of water which is somewhat hard, but otherwise satisfactory. The number of samples examined during 1937 was insufficient to satisfy modern requirements, but since the end of the year the Council has decided that specimens shall be submitted for analysis every month. Having regard to the size and other circumstances of the water undertaking I consider that this should provide adequate control of the purity of the water supplied.

The mains were extended as follows during 1937 :—

Mount Crescent ...	...	100 yards
Pyrehill Lane ...	...	10 yards

The 40 new houses erected in the district during the year were all connected to the mains.

One house which previously obtained its water from a well was connected to the mains during 1937. This left four houses still dependant on wells at the end of the year.

The reservoir was cleaned out, and the mains flushed, during the year.

Sewage Disposal.

It is with much regret that I have to report that little real progress has been made during 1937, towards the provision of adequate sewage disposal works. The present works remain quite inadequate, and they discharge a thoroughly unsatisfactory effluent into the river. In addition at certain times they cause a nuisance in parts of the town by reason of an offensive odour.

The Ministry of Health inquiry into the Council's application for sanction for a loan for new sewage disposal works was held at the Town Hall, on the 7th October. Objections were made on be-

half of residents and property owners in the neighbourhood of the proposed new works, and at the end of the year the Minister had not yet given a definite decision for or against the Council's application.

Closet Accommodation.

Of the 47 pail or privy closets still in use at the end of 1936, 5 were connected to the sewer during 1937: Thus at the end of the year 42 pail or privy closets (on the outskirts of the town) remained in use.

Public Cleansing.

Scavenging has proceeded as before, and the "controlled tip" on land adjoining Stafford Street is still in use, with very good results. A considerable area of good "made" land is coming into existence, and the appearance of this part of the town is being steadily improved.

Sanitary Inspection of the area.

The following table summarises the inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector and his assistant during the year:—

Table 7.

	No of Inspections	Notices Served		Nuisances abated after Notice	
		Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Dwelling Houses	223	128	—	123	—
Bakehouses	8	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds and Dairies	16	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	120	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workshops	43	—	—	—	—

Shop Acts 1912-34.

Mr. Charles Dale, the inspector under these acts, reports that during the year 1937 he interviewed the shop assistants where he considered it necessary with regard to their hours and occupations. He also visited those shops where assistants under 18 years of age are employed (in accordance with the Shops Act 1934). He visited mixed shops which open on Sunday, and handed to the shopkeepers a list of the things which may be sold on Sunday, under the Sunday Trading Restriction Act (which came into force on the 1st May, 1937), until such time as an order may be made by the Local Authority. Owing to a complaint that the manageress of a certain stores was retaining some of the assistants after the closing hour, he visited the stores and explained to her that she must adhere to the regulations. Since then there has been no cause for complaint. Minor infringements of the regulations by a hairdresser and a milk retailer were dealt with informally.

Smoke Abatement.

Complaints were received in connection with smoke from two business premises. In each case informal action resulted in abatement.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

None are available for public use in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

- (1). a. No Council houses were found to be infested.
b. One other house was found to be infested and was disinfested.

(2). The house concerned was undergoing repairs, following an informal notice from the Sanitary Inspector. The landlord obtained vacant possession of the house in order to disinfest it thoroughly. It was sprayed with "Clymax" before and after carrying out the repairs.

(3) Successful applicants for Council houses are inspected for the presence of bed-bugs before removal. In no case, during the year, has this inspection revealed the presence of bed-bugs.

(4). In the case referred to under paragraphs (1) and (2) above, the disinfestation was carried out by the local authority.

(5). No special measures of supervision or education have been undertaken.

D. Housing.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 25 : Clearance Areas.

A further six Clearance Areas are now awaiting confirmation by the Minister of Health, the Council having passed the necessary resolutions. To accommodate the tenants who will be displaced from these condemned houses the Council are now building 36 houses on the Redhill Gardens site. They are non-parlour type houses with three bedrooms each.

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV : Overcrowding,

So far as can be ascertained from the records available there has been no abatement of overcrowding during the year.

Housing Statistics.

Table 8. *Number of houses erected during the year :—*

i.	By the local authority	...	...	Nil
ii.	By other local authorities	...	...	Nil
iii.	By private enterprise	...	...	40

Table 9. *Number of houses owned by the Council
on December 31st, 1937 :*

Built under the 1919 Housing Act						...	35
"	"	"	1923	"	"	...	136
"	"	"	1924	"	"	...	20
"	"	"	1930	"	"	...	42
"	"	"	1935	"	"	...	Nil

Table 10.

I.	Inspection of dwelling houses during the year 1937 :—				
i	(a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...			179
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...			234
ii	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under the sub-head i above) which were inspected and recorded ...			179
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...			179
iii		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...			34
iv		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...			128
II.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—				
		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...			123
III.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—				
	<i>(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936 :</i>				
	i	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...			nil
	ii	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—			
		(a) By owners ...			nil
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners			nil
	<i>(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :</i>				
	i	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...			nil
	ii	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—			
		(a) By owners ...			nil
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners			nil
	<i>(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :</i>				
	i	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...			nil
	ii	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...			nil

(D) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

i	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	nil
ii	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	nil

IV. **Housing Act, 1936, Part IV : Overcrowding:—**

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	56
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	56
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	322½
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	nil
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	nil
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	nil
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	nil

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

There are no changes to report during the year 1937. One unregistered purveyor of milk was found to be selling milk in contravention of the regulations, but the matter was dealt with informally.

Meat.

There are three registered Slaughter Houses in the district, and three licensed Slaughter Houses. A total of 120 visits was paid to these during 1937 and two informal notices were served regarding the necessity for whitewashing. These were complied with, and in all other respects the Slaughter Houses were found to be satisfactory.

Table 11.

			Total Carcases Inspected	No. of Carcases of which a portion was condemned
Bovines	...	...	72	9
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	194	6
Pigs	...	...	110	1

Nutrition.

No special campaign has been undertaken during the year. The Medical Officer of Health has the subject constantly in mind during his visits (under the County Council) to the Schools and Welfare Centre, and he has the co-operation of the County Council Health Visitor for the district.

F. Infectious Disease.

There was again little notifiable infectious disease in the town during the year.

Sporadic cases of Diphtheria occurred throughout the year, but were fortunately of a mild nature. Towards the end of the year the Council decided to embark upon a campaign of Diphtheria Immunisation. This is proceeding in 1938, and a very encouraging response has been obtained from the parents of the children between the ages of 2 and 8 years to whom immunisation has been offered. It is confidently hoped that by this means the incidence of Diphtheria in the town in future years will be reduced.

Dysentery became epidemic in the rural district around Stone towards the end of the year. The Medical Officer of Health learnt informally that there were cases of diarrhoea in existence in Stone, and he communicated with the medical practitioners of the town asking them to look out for cases of Dysentery. Fortunately, however, Stone escaped this epidemic.

Influenza at the beginning of the year, and Chicken Pox at the end, caused a good deal of school absenteeism, but interfered little with other aspects of the life of the town.

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are well notified by the practitioners of Stone, and it seldom happens that a case of either disease first comes to light from information received from the school.

Table 12. Infectious Diseases.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED BY AGES												Total	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65			
	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	6	6	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	1	1	2	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	9	9	...
Enteric, including Paratyphoid ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	3	3	1	10	...	5
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Other Notifiable Dis's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TUBERCULOSIS.

Table 13. New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

AGE Periods (in years)	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5+	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
10+	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
15+	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
20+	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
25+	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
35+	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
45+	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65+	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Age not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	3	5	5	1	2	0	0	0

Table 14. No. of Cases on the Tuberculosis Register for the District
at the end of the last four years.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1934	23	16	15	17	71
1935	12	17	12	15	56
1936	15	18	11	16	60
1937	14	22	15	15	66

Table 15. Causes of Death.
in Stone Urban District, 1937.
classified according to the Registrar-General's Short List of Causes.

Causes of Death.				Male	Female
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	—	—
2	Measles ...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	3	3
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	1	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	1	—
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	—	—
11	Syphilis ...	...	...	—	—
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer-Malignant Disease	...	...	4	7
14	Diabetes...	...	...	—	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	1	3
16	Heart Disease	...	...	8	5
17	Aneurysm	...	...	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	—	—
19	Bronchitis	...	...	2	—
20	Pneumonia—all forms	...	...	3	2
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	—	—
23	Diarrhœa, etc., under 2 years	...	...	—	—
24	Appendicitis	...	...	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	—	—
26	Other Diseases of Liver	...	...	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	1	—
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	1	1
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	—	2
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, &c.	...	...	3	2
32	Senility ...	...	...	3	2
33	Suicide ...	...	...	1	—
34	Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	3	1
35	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	4	1
36	Other Diseases Ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	—	—
Total Deaths				39	30

Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901
in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

(1) Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Table 16.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	14	Nil	Nil
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	19	Nil	Nil
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' prem.)	10	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	43	Nil	Nil

(2) Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Table 17.

Particulars	Number of Defects.	
	Found	Remedied
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—		
Want of Cleanliness	3	3
Want of Ventilation... ..	1	1
Other	Nil	Nil
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts ...	Nil	Nil
Outwork in Unwholesome Premises	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	4	4

No cases were referred to H.M. Inspector and no prosecutions were instituted.

